

HB 1322 -- FOOD STAMP ELIGIBILITY FOR FELONS

SPONSOR: Ellinger

This bill specifies that, pursuant to the option granted by 21 U.S.C. Section 862a(d) under the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, an individual who has pled guilty to or is found guilty under federal or state law of a felony involving the possession or use of a controlled substance must be eligible for federal food stamp program benefits if, as determined by the Department of Social Services:

- (1) It has been at least five years since the person was convicted of a drug-related felony;
- (2) Any period of probation or parole for the conviction has been completed or expired;
- (3) The person has complied with all obligations imposed by a court, including the payment of all court costs and fines; and
- (4) The person has not been found guilty of or pled nolo contendere to any additional felony or felonies.

The individual must also be otherwise eligible for participation in the food stamp program.